



THE SHAKERITE

48th Year, Number 10

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

May 22, 1978



COUNCIL CHANGE PROPOSED COUNCIL CHANGE PROPOSED

On April 26, Student Council Advisor Robert Mohney proposed a change in the organization of Student Council for the coming years. Student Council in the past has been called "a social organization whose members are there just to inflate their individual egos." Mohney suggested that Student Council, as it is now composed, be disbanded and that the Advisory Group Council represent the school. This idea follows suit to an editorial written in the last issue of **THE SHAKERITE** by Robert Milman, which called for the same change as Mohney suggests.

When Mohney brought his idea up at the Student Council meeting, it was met with both acceptance and disagreement. Many seniors said that they really did not care what happens because they aren't going to be here

next year. After much heated discussion, it was decided that Student Council would take its ideas to the A.G. Council. This would seem like the right idea, since the A.G. Council, in fact, truly represents Shaker students. If the A.G. Council decided that this is an important enough issue, it will be sent to the students to vote upon.

As it stands now, according to Ellen Medearis and Jim Scharf of the Civics Committee, Student Council presidential, vice-presidential, and representative elections will be held according to schedule. It all depends on Shaker students as to whether or not there will be a change in the way student government is run at Shaker.

In order for the new system to be put into effect, a majority vote of Shaker students in favor is required.

By Mark Edelman

This is due to the fact that it is a Constitution amendment. A compromise has not yet been worked out as to how exactly the new government would be set up if put into effect. One suggestion has been that one representative come from each A.G. (approximately 80), and that these representatives choose a "governing council" of around 15-20 members. These fifteen people will act as a presidential cabinet, and will be composed equally of the three classes. Another suggestion is that there be no "governing council," and that each member be equal in stature. If the latter is put into effect, it will call for the open election of both secretary, and treasurer. It has not been discussed as of now what will be done with the various committees that Student Council has now.

Many feel that a change in the present system is needed. The only way the Shaker students will find out how many share their views, is when the result of the amendment voting has been tabulated. Either way, some student will be upset; however this showing of interest on the part of many students as to how their student government is run, is very encouraging to those who feel that school spirit is not dead and some pride in Shaker still exists. No matter which way the vote turns out, just having the vote is a step in the right direction.

BAND INVITES SUCCESS

By Dan Hoffman

The Shaker Band proved themselves to be something special at this year's Invitational Concert. They planned and practiced hard for this event and performed with excellence. The excitement really began on Thursday, April 27, when two busloads of Bexley band members arrived. Pulling in an hour behind schedule, band members couldn't contain their excitement, and when a car was blocking the buses' path, three excited band members picked the car up and moved it out of the way. Things started to get confusing as everyone was ushered into the auditorium with their luggage. But Abby Solomon and Debbie Sopher had the situation well in hand as they directed the Bexley people to their homes for the weekend. Most of Shaker's band members were hosts for two of Bexley's band members. Bexley is a suburb of Columbus and last year Shaker performed there. Everyone was distributed to his host and taken home to eat dinner.

That same night, a rehearsal was held for both bands together with the guest conductor, Jack O. Evans. The practice session was a long and exhilarating one but Mr. Evans used his experience to

conduct this large group that had met together for the first time only that night. Mr. Evans was the band director of Shaker from 1937-1947 and was director of the marching band at Ohio State University. His expertise was quite beneficial. Thursday night was an especially tiring session for Shaker students as they had had a late rehearsal on Wednesday night and an early one Thursday morning. The tension between the two bands diminished and everyone became quite friendly as people began to relax. After the rehearsal everyone rushed home to bed to get a good night's sleep for the upcoming concert.

Friday morning saw a small problem when there was a shortage of music stands for rehearsal, but both bands adapted well to the situation. The Bexley Band then went to Mercer Elementary School to perform a concert. This was a good trial for that evening's production. After coming back from Mercer, Bexley proceeded to visit classes with their hosts. This proved to be interesting and worthwhile for some of them and others decided to visit Shaker Lakes and soak up some rays. The afternoon was left free and many people prepared for the approaching concert. Some people decided to prepare for the party after the concert, but everyone was excited about the upcoming event.

The concert started off with Bexley performing a few numbers that were quite pleasing. Shaker then took the stage and performed astoundingly. In one of the pieces, the audience was taught the melody and asked to sing Towards the end of the piece the band suddenly became silent with only the rhythm and background instruments playing, but the melody continued as the audience sang right along. Following up the act, Shaker's Jazz Band wowed the audience with some thrillers and dramatic solos. Incidentally, the Jazz Band is one of the top three in all of Ohio and received a "Superior" ranking (the highest possible) at a recent contest.

Both the Shaker and Bexley bands then climbed onto the stage and performed the grand finale. The stage was packed and the full-colored sound that arose was one of beauty. The concert was completed as the bands played both Shaker's and Bexley's fight songs. The emotion had reached its peak but the excitement didn't end because everyone went to the party. Everyone had fun, each in his or her own way. The celebration seemed endless and occurred in various forms. Weeks of preparation went into the concert and it was finally over. A tired Bexley band left Saturday morning and wondered what next year would bring.



National Achievement and National Merit Scholarships Finalists for 1978 are: (top row, left to right) Mark Kruce, Debby Schwartz, (bottom row, left to right) Jean Schaffer, Cecelie Berry, and Beth Kennard. Our Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!

Shaker wishes to congratulate Shakerites Cecelie Berry, Beth Kennard, Mark Kruce, Jean Schaffer and Debby Schwartz on their outstanding academic achievements of this year, and their past years at the High School.

Cecelie and Mark received their awards from the National Achievement Scholarship Program. They are the Achievement Program finalists for Shaker Heights High School's graduating class of 1978. Having submitted exceptional PSAT/NMSQT scores on two separate tests, an autobiographical statement, and endorsement from their high school, as well as attestation from Shaker of their grade record. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation sponsors the Achievement Program with money provided by the Ford Foundation, as well as other corporations. The Ford Foundation gave 7

million dollars in 1964, although the program had already existed for 9 years. The program is financially helpful and encouraging to black students, and is expected to continue.

Jean, Debby and Beth are recipients of the National Merit Scholarships given to Shaker. The requirements are the same as those requested by the National Achievement Program, and its aims are similar: "It is hoped that the Merit Program recognition that all Finalists receive is helpful to them in gaining college admission and receiving financial aid from other sources when it is needed."

All of these students have been accepted into colleges - in that, the programs have achieved their first aim. It is Shaker's hope that these students will continue successfully and happily.

SHAKERITE ON GRISTMILL

There really hasn't been that much attention surrounding this year's Gristmill, but there should be. You see, much work has been done to change the format of the book and make it better than ever.

Jon Bank is this year's editor of the Gristmill. Our interview took place in the squalid surroundings of Jon Bank's studio, with the incessant pulsation of Reggae music in the background. Jon Bank is also an actor, and he has a gold earring in his left ear.

Shakerite: What are the general changes you have instituted this year in the Gristmill?

Jon: Basically, the book has been redesigned to emphasize what we, meaning the Gristmill staff, consider to be most important.

Shakerite: That doesn't sound too radical, Jon.

Jon: No, it isn't. Precisely the point. You see, over the years, um, a traditional format has been established. And really never questioned.

Shakerite: What is the

traditional format?

Jon: That's rather off the subject, but basically the book was divided into several sections with no specific intentions, no real attention given to the dividing lines, and no real continuity from section to section. Each section was worked on by individuals who never communicated with each other. This year, all individuals worked on all parts of the yearbook. Also certain thematic and visual restrictions were imposed, providing the necessary coordination which make the book a whole.

Shakerite: What thematic and visual restrictions were imposed this year?

Jon: Well, for example, all pages in the book have the same border. This may not sound very significant, and it is something not many people would tend to notice; however, we feel that it will greatly add to the impression of coherence.

Shakerite: What about theme?

Jon: We were working with a couple of thematic

principles (Mr. Murphy not included, of course), one more abstract than the other. The one most important was that no photograph would be included if it did not have a specific relationship to Shaker Heights High School. That means, no photographs of pretty flowers, small children and other irrelevant subjects.

Shakerite: Then what were the pictures of?

Jon: People. Shaker Heights High School students in and around Shaker Heights High School.

Shakerite: What other changes have been instituted?

Jon: Well one was the elimination of divider pages separating sections. We felt they were a waste of space. Another was the elimination of virtually all copy.

Shakerite: Would you clarify, please?

Jon: Pardon me, printed words: Boring, heavy, useless, headlines which nobody reads anyway. Another change, we weren't afraid to enlarge pictures to their full size, the fullest

possible size, and have only one picture per page.

Shakerite: How often did you do this?

Jon: Well, in the candid section, actually there was no candid section, but the candid pages as opposed to pictures of sports teams and clubs, it was done in the majority of the time. We feel that this will have a much greater effect. Incidentally, the number of candid pages was expanded to be far greater than any other year. Over 100 pages of pure photography are in this year's book.

Shakerite: How did you manage to have enough space to do that? Books in the past seemed to "be huttin'" for space, so to speak.

Jon: With regard to the number of pages, what we did, along the lines of emphasizing the things we feel are important, was to condense all the "mug shots".

Shakerite: You mean you have whole pages of class pictures, uninterrupted, or

CONT. ON P. 4

Tent City: Opposing Viewpoints

By Kevin Rogus

At last the infamous needle on the Shaker Heights High School apathy meter has dropped a few points after maintaining a high reading over an extended period of time. The establishment, of Tent City Two on the front lawn on May 4, in memory of the tragedy of Kent State University in which four students were killed and others wounded by national guardsmen, is a step in the right direction, away from the unwritten code of apathy which this school has come to follow so well.

Whether or not the demonstration can be justified by all Shaker High students is not important. What is important is that for the first time in a long time a group of students, concerned about a tragic event and its succeeding controversial events, have let their feel-

ings be known to the families of the dead and wounded, to the people who hold the ground on which the shootings occurred sacred, to the SHHS community, and the Shaker community in general.

Unfortunately the school is full of apathetic students who hold expressions of emotion by other people in contempt and would rather sit idly by and ridicule, as was the case in this demonstration. It is even more unfortunate that the promotional posters for the demonstration could not have had a more positive effect on many of the already skeptical students. Many read the posters only to find them messy and generally poorly done with a number of blatant spelling errors such as the word "remember" spelled out in large letters on one

poster as "rember". It is understandable that many students find it difficult to have many deep feelings about an event which occurred when most of them were no older than ten years of age and the war in Vietnam was only a thing which was too far away to bother the average ten-year-old; however, this does not excuse the ridiculing of those to whom Kent State has some meaning.

Kent State generally has negative connotations related to it, but positive action has been taken and can have nothing but positive effects on the apathy which has plagued this high school for so long.

By Jay Watson

Recently at Shaker we experienced a little bit of Kent State University; that is an

The quiet remembrance equally pointless Tent City, demonstrated with the black arm bands served to remind us of the mistakes made by all concerned parties which led to the unfortunate deaths of May 4, 1970. They served, for good or bad, to keep alive those memories. The six tents as well as the several hundred as at Kent, however, seemed quite pointless.

First, let us look at the tents that were at Kent State last year. They, theoretically, were there to protest the building of a badly needed gym. Little is it realized that the gym was not covering the place where any student died. Therefore it seems that to protest the construction on the grounds that the gym would destroy a historic site is absurd. It is also interesting to note that the May Fourth Coalition was

happy to obey the courts as long as the courts were on their side. They even made a point of it in their television coverage. However, once the courts changed their decision and sided with the University, the coalition disregarded all laws; they ignored the orders to move and they even went so far as to destroy property. Also, it must be noted that the vast majority of those protesting with Tent City had never been to Kent before. Since the whole issue is between the K.S.U. administration and the K.S.U. students of 1970 and of 1978, I question the right of the protestors to disrupt the operation of the university. Most of the K.S.U. students who were apparently demonstrating actually were doing nothing of the sort; most were simply trying to kill some time by seeing what was going on at

Tent City.

Now with regard to our own Tent City Two, what was it supposed to represent? If it was supposed to be in remembrance of the 1970 killings, I fail to see anything but a very tenuous connection. If our own group, was attempting to capitalize on this connection, it seems that they were doing more harm than good; for they were confusing the memory of the 1970 killings with the lawless May Fourth Coalition. The relationship between the May Fourth Coalition and our own protest group is stronger than many realize. Neither Tent City, One or Two, seems to have had a reason to exist. My comment to those who organized either of these events is that you should have a clear and justifiable reason for protesting if that is what you want to do.

Administration of Finals Demands Restudy

By Jeff Spiegler

The end of Shaker Heights High School's 1977-78 school year is approaching, and many Shaker students are beginning to prepare for their year-end final examinations. Finals are the most important academic function of this high school, and are thus given much weight in the tabulation of semester grades. Nevertheless, this weight is not the major reason for their great importance. Their real value lies in the preparation to take them. Students are forced to review a semester's worth of work -- rereading forgotten poems and stories, memorizing formulas, reviewing centuries of history. Final examinations serve to tie the entire semester into one cohesive unit. After realizing their worth, one begins to wonder why the exams are scheduled the way they are, with classes being held the very day before finals begin.

At most colleges, there is a period of about one week between the end of classes and the start of finals. This time is for catching up on old work and preparing for finals. Granted, the administration cannot be expected to set aside an entire week without classes, but it could be a bit more accommodating to the students. Classes should not

be held the day before finals. This idea is not radical, nor is it original. Several years ago, at this high school, it was standard policy to give the students at least one "study day" before finals. Students regard finals seriously, as do teachers. Why, then, is the job of scheduling finals effectively not taken seriously by the administration?

The administration's argument for having classes that day is that they must fulfill the state requirement for school days. Surely the state examiners could be convinced of the value of this day. Require all teachers to be at school, and then call it a conference day, or a guided learning experience for all 1700 students. Possibly a day could be added somewhere else on the school calendar; the school year could be started on a Tuesday instead of the traditional Wednesday.

Second semester finals are approaching quickly, and the time is right to begin looking for a solution to this problem, which looms again at the end of the semester. Finals for the second semester begin on Friday, with four days of classes before them. Surely this situation cannot be allowed to remain as it is; a search for the solution must begin now.

Alaska

Dear Editor,

The future of America's last virgin wilderness area is at stake. A large portion of land in Alaska has yet to be dissected, exploited, and ruined by "civilization". Since the coming of the white man to this continent, only adventurers and outdoorsmen took advantage of the abundant resources in Alaska. However, its wealth in natural resources such as oil and gas, is the very factor which now threatens its future as our last great wildlife and nature preserve. Some Americans have finally found value in the remote Alaskan territory, for its temporary ability to supply the drug that our technological addictions crave. We've already scarred over 900 miles of wilderness with the Alaskan pipeline. The negative effects of this pipeline are as numerous as they are evident: effects such as the disruption of the migratory patterns of large game and destruction of the fragile tundra ecosystem. With a mentality of production and development versus the natural environment, I don't think the wilds of America stand much of a chance. Of course, supporters of the pipeline and similar enterprises have countless justifications for their actions. The American way of life has evolved (or regressed?) to the point where all of us are dependent upon oil and the commodities which require it. However, if more effort was put into the exploration of alternative energy sources, our grotesque need for oil might not force us to pillage what little natural areas we have left.

The point of this letter is to express the situation with the Alaskan wilderness. In September, the fate of the D2 bill will be decided upon in Congress. This bill is a

proposition to set aside and preserve certain areas of Alaska for National Forests, Parks, and Recreation Areas. By sending a brief letter to Charles Vanik, 2108 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515, expressing our backing of the D2 bill, we can do all that is possible to get this bill passed. Impressing upon our congressperson our support of the bill, is the only motivation he or she will have to push for its passage in September. I hope that by now, the reader will feel the urgency in speaking out for the D2 bill. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Brandon Fine

(Editors Note: Brandon Fine is a former Shaker student who is currently participating in a travelling school throughout the country.)

Dear Editor:

Racism influences and permeates every aspect of American life. It certainly exists in the schools because schools reflect society's prevailing immoralities and even train pupils to preserve, perpetuate, and defend these wrongs. Shaker Heights is no exception, and a recent editorial in *The Shakerite* is certainly paradigmatic of just such influence.

To the writer of "Concerned Parents Protest Discrimination", I say you have been well-trained. Your reaction to the assertion that there is discrimination at the High School is classic. It goes like this:

(a) What discrimination? I do not see any.
(b) We cannot trust the perceptions of blacks. They do not know when they are being treated well. Show us the evidence that you think you have. Then, we will let you know why you are wrong.

(c) Well, if we whites do have to put you into certain groups and keep you out of others, it is either for your own good or the good of the school. Whatever is done to you is the result of your own behavior. Your shortcomings, not ours, force us to treat you this way. We are innocent. You are guilty.

(d) If there is any discrimination, just ignore it. Do better, and you will be treated better.

To me, your position seems perposterous. To you, mine does. It is not surprising that you and I have entirely different points of view because you have been looking at them for eleven years through black eyes. The difference is vast.

Basically, you are free to react to the teachers' view of you as a potential learner. They are glad to have you. Your very presence helps to make Shaker an excellent school. You are a highly prized member of the learning community. High level courses are designed to challenge you. Your efforts are viewed appreciatively. Naturally, in this favorable climate, your intellect is nourished, and it flourishes.

But the same teachers view me as a potential trouble-maker. They are sorry that I moved into Shaker. My very presence constitutes a threat to the good name of the school. It is reluctantly tolerated. The school is excellent in spite of me. Low level courses are designed in honor of my ineptitude. In this unfavorable climate, my intellectuality is not even perceived. How can it be nurtured? I am not considered worthy of the challenging work designed for the more capable students. My very presence is construed as detrimental to "Shaker's fine tradition of high academic standards."

Even though we blacks have been carefully sorted out and labeled inferior at this school, some of us do accept this label. And we will not wear it. I shall work to see that no other blacks wear it. I shall also work to see that the labels are no longer printed. My self-respect demands it. I shall never accept the discrimination of my own humanity.

Sincerely yours,
Lisa Rose
Minority Motivation
Committee

Editor's Column

By Robert Milman

Many of you may be wondering why the size of this issue of the *Shakerite* was reduced by 50 percent. The answer is obvious. Because of the lack of participation in our dollar campaign earlier this semester, the newspaper was forced to cut back. We regret this sudden change, yet we cannot accept the blame for it. It is hoped that next year the students of this school will respond favorably to the student fee of \$1.50 that will be instituted at the beginning of the 1978-1979 school year. We hope that we will be able to continue to operate next year and serve the school faithfully. However it's entirely up to you!!!!

THE SHAKERITE is a tri-weekly publication of the newspaper staff at Shaker Heights High School, 15911 Aldersyde Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120.
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Reporters: Dan Hoffman, Jeff Spiegler, Jay Watson, Kevin Rogus, Debbie Sopher.

Faculty Advisor: Burton Randall

"i" on sports: No Athletic Pass Sale This Spring

by Alan Ingile

There is some very important information regarding next year's Athletic Passes, which everyone interested should know. Jerry Masteller has informed me that there will be no Athletic Pass Campaign this spring, which is contrary to the way things are normally done. What this means is that Athletic Passes will not be available until the beginning of the 1978-79 school year.

The reasons for the sale being switched to the fall rather than the spring this year are the lack of spirit and participation due to all the spring sports and the senior projects not to mention all the seniors' lackadaisical attitudes since they are almost done with Shaker High.

The door-to-door campaign to sell the Athletic Passes will take place the week of September 18. However, since the first home football game is on September 16 against South High, some Athletic Passes will be available through the football players

as of the middle of August.

As far as the door-to-door campaign goes, it will be handled in a different manner than in previous years. Next year, the sellers will be allowed to sell their passes anywhere they want, not just in an assigned district as it usually is. Incentive prizes will still be offered to those students who sell the most passes.

Once the passes are sold, they will be distributed the week of September 25, in time for the next home football game on September 30 against Garfield.

There will be announcements made at the beginning of next year for those interested in being involved with the Athletic Pass Campaign.

...

With the end of the school year coming upon us, it is time to take a look at how well Shaker has done as far as the Principal' Cup is concerned. Since I am

sure all of you are avid readers of this column, I need not explain what the Principals' Cup is all about, as I have traveled that path before.

As it turns out, I'm not really sure that it is worth looking at, for after the totals are in, including all fall and winter sports, it appears as if Shaker is in the lowly position of seventh place (out of ten teams). The reason for this low standing as of now is really due to the comparable weakness of Shaker's girls' sports. You see, many schools which have poor boys' teams work more with their girls' teams, and make up the slack in standings that way.

Mr. Masteller, Shaker's own Jimmy the Greek, predicts that Shaker will finish in the third position because of the strong tennis, track and baseball teams fielded by Shaker this spring. Moving up to third place could be difficult, however, as Shaker has only 98 points while the top three schools are Cleveland Heights (135), Lakewood (122), and Berea (107).

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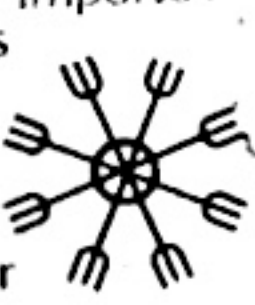
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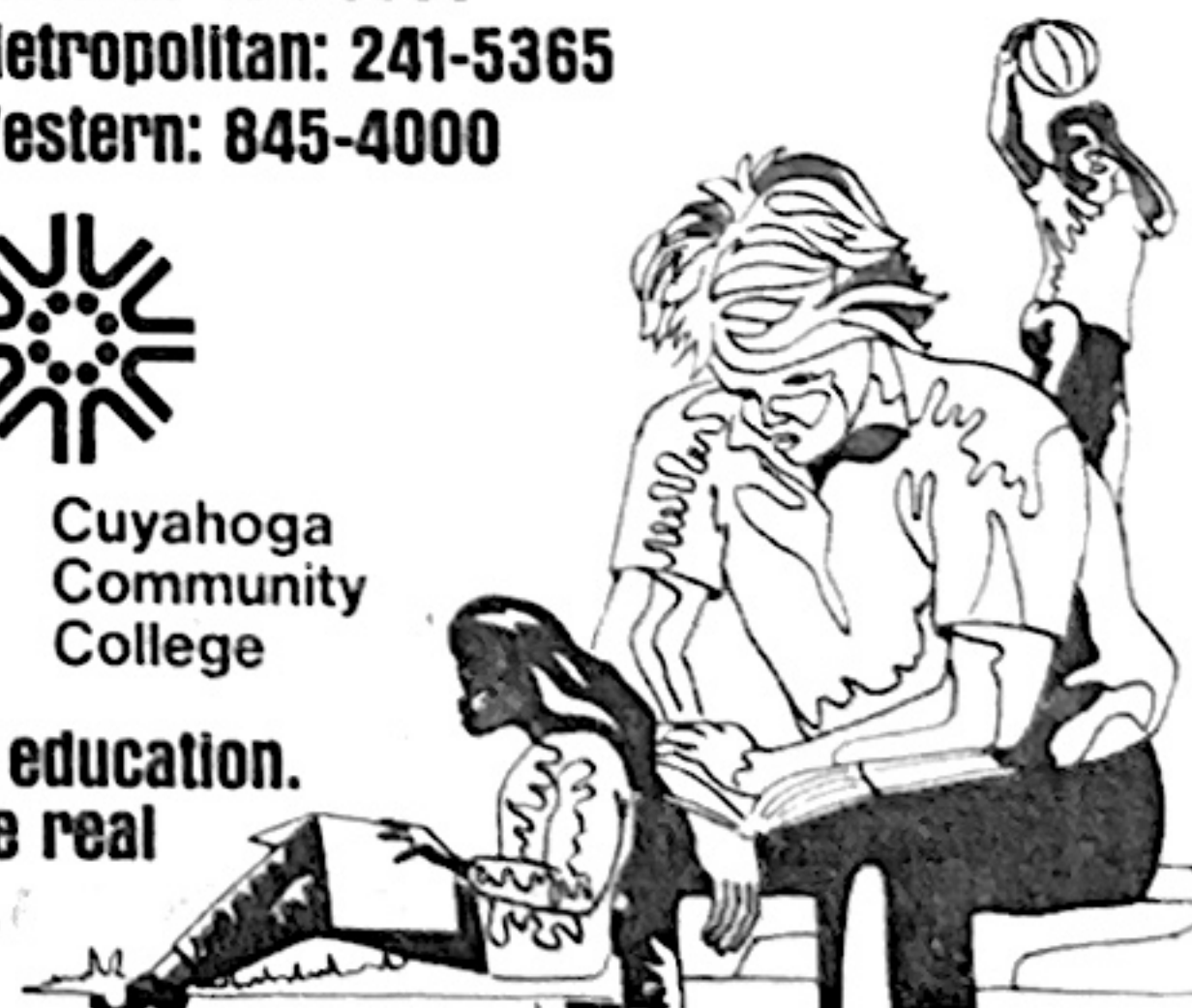
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GRISTMILL con'd

mug shots, as you call them? Doesn't that get boring?

Jon: People only look at those pictures when they want to find someone they know or would like to know. So by condensing them, we have created 1) an easy reference section and 2) a book which is uninterrupted by the stiff and unattractive class pictures. The same thing was done with the group shots of clubs and sports teams. This allowed the pages designated for the various sports room for creative layout. As to these pages being boring, we have interspersed full-page candid shots every three or four pages.

Shakerite: Wow, that sounds great.

Jon: We think so.

Shakerite: Was there any divine inspiration behind this book?

Jon: That brings up an interesting point. Many of our ideas were in fact inspired by a year book published (not at Shaker) ten years ago, which we referred to as the "god book". Other ideas were immaculately conceived.

Shakerite: I bet that your photography staff is responsible for these ideas.

Jon: Not the ideas so much as the execution. If I may speak seriously, all the changes in format aside, what really makes this book different is the photography. It's good.

Shakerite: How good?

Jon: Great! Absolutely never been better. I speak

with no hesitation when I say that this year's staff, led by Spencer Fine, Dave Ginn, Marc Schwartzbaugh, and David Tucker, was more dedicated and talented than any other group of high school photographers I can imagine.

Shakerhythm: Was there a rhythm to your book?

Jon: Of course.

Shakerhythm and Blues: So Jon, do you recommend buying this book, or no...

Jonathon Bank: Well, truthfully, anyone who doesn't buy this book is not cool. Nor can they ever hope to be cool. And well, frankly, if your not cool, then what else is there?

Shakerite: Well, there's always the school newspaper.....



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